

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1, 10, 12, 15, 17, 27 and 28 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 2-9, 11, 18-26 and 29-34 as follows:

Claim 2, line 1: Change "compound" to -- method -- and
Change "1," to -- 11, --.

Claim 3, line 1: Change "compound" to -- method -- and
Change "1," to -- 11, --.

Claim 4, line 1: Change "compound" to -- method -- and
Change "1," to -- 11, --.

Claim 5, line 1: Change "compound" to -- method -- and
Change "1," to -- 11, --.

Claim 6, line 1: Change "compound" to -- method -- and
Change "1," to -- 11, --.

Claim 7, line 1: Change "compound" to -- method --.

Claim 8, line 1: Change "compound" to -- method --.

9. (Amended.) A [compound] method of claim [1] 11,
wherein said compound is:

gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-
tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-methoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a
physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

europium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxy-
methyl)-4-(4-methoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiolog-
ically acceptable salt thereof;

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iron(III) complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-methoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

[bismuth complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-methoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;]

gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-5-(4-methoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-[4-(4-methoxybenzyloxy)benzyl]undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-benzylundecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

ytterbium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-benzylundecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-benzyloxymethylundecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-carboxymethoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-ethoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

europium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-ethoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

iron complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-ethoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-butoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

europium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-butoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

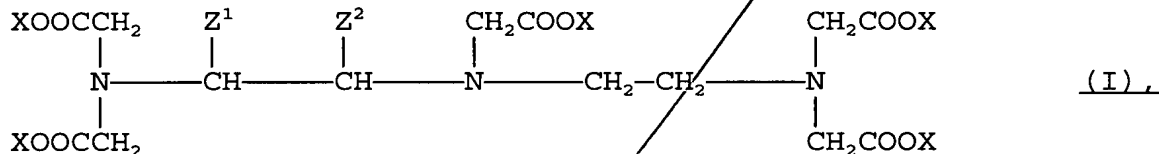
iron complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-butoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-benzyloxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

europium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-benzyloxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

iron complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-benzyloxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

11. (Amended.) A method of enhancing an NMR image comprising administering to a patient a compound of [claim 1, wherein] the formula



wherein

Z¹ and Z² in each case, independently, are each
-(CH₂)_m-(C₆H₄)_q-(O)_k-(CH₂)_n-(C₆H₄)_l-(O)_r-R,
wherein
m and n, independently, are each 0-20,
k, l, q and r are each, independently, 0 or 1,
R is H, C₁-C₆-alkyl, OR¹-substituted C₁-C₆-alkyl or
CH₂COOR¹,

R¹ is H, C₁-C₆-alkyl or benzyl; and

X is a hydrogen atom and/or a metal ion equivalent of
an element of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 58-70;
and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier;

with the provisos that:

at least two X groups represent a metal ion equivalent of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 58-70;

one of the substituents Z¹ and Z² is hydrogen and the other is not hydrogen;

when n and l are each 0, then k and r are not each simultaneously 1;

-(O)_r-R is not -OH; and

Z¹ and Z² are not -CH₂-C₆H₄-O-CH₂-COOCH₂C₆H₅ or -CH₂-C₆H₄-O-(CH₂)₅-COOCH₂C₆H₅;

or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof with an inorganic and/or organic base, an amino acid or an amino acid amide.

Claim 18, line 1: Change "compound" to -- method -- and
Change "1," to -- 11, --.

Claim 19, line 1: Change "compound" to -- method -- and
Change "1," to -- 11, --.

Claim 20, line 1: Change "compound" to -- method -- and
Change "1," to -- 11, --.

Claim 21, line 1: Change "compound" to -- method -- and
Change "1," to -- 11, --.

Claim 22, line 1: Change "compound" to -- method -- and
Change "1," to -- 11, --.

Claim 23, line 1: Change "compound" to -- method -- and
Change "1," to -- 11, --.

Claim 24, line 1: Change "compound" to -- method -- and
Change "1," to -- 11, --.

Claim 25, line 1: Change "compound" to -- method -- and
Change "1," to -- 11, --.

Claim 26, line 1: Change "compound" to -- method -- and
Change "1," to -- 11, --.

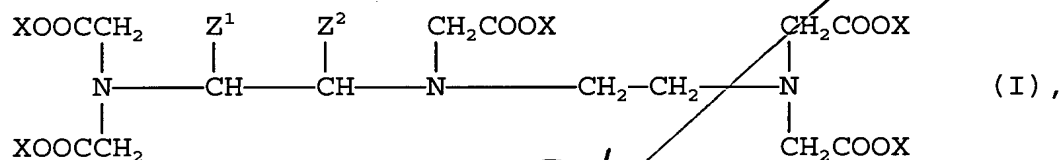
Claim 29, line 1: Change "compound" to -- method --.

Claim 30, line 1: Change "compound" to -- method --.

Claim 31, line 1: Change "compound" to -- method -- and
Change "1," to -- 11, --.

Claim 32, line 1: Change "compound" to -- method -- and
Change "1," to -- 11, --.

33. (Amended.) A method according to claim 1, wherein
said compound is of the formula



wherein

Z¹ is phenyl,

Z² is H, and

X is, in each case, a hydrogen atom or a metal ion
equivalent of an element of atomic number [21-25, 28,
29, 42, 44, 57-62, 64, and 66-83] 21-29, 42, 44 or
58-70, wherein at least two of the substituents X
each represent a metal ion equivalent of atomic
number 21-29, 42, 44 or 58-70,

or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof with an inor-
ganic and/or organic base, an amino acid or an amino acid amide.

Claim 34, line 1: Change "compound" to -- method --.